

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 25, 2007. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 18-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 13, and 15-17 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 21 were rejected. Claims 18-20 were allowed. Applicant amends Claims 2, 5, 9, 12, 14 and 21 and respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2 and 21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant amended Claims 2 and 21 accordingly.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,235,926 issued to G.P. Roux ("Roux"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 14, and 21 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,607,323 issued to Foster ("Foster"). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is

contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as anticipated by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

Applicant amended independent Claims 9 and 14 to more clearly define the elements of the conducting element and the sealing device as shown in the exemplary embodiments. According to the amendment the sealing body touches both the conducting element and the inner side wall of the through-hole. This limitation is disclosed on page 6, lines 10-22 of the originally submitted specification. Furthermore, a first and second recess is defined. The first recess is shown, for example, in Figure 1 with numeral 16 and the second recess with numeral 14. The second recess forms a positive retainer together with rib 13. Neither the terminal according to *Roux* nor the snap adapter according to *Foster* disclose such an arrangement.

Hence, Applicant believes that the independent Claims 9 and 14 are allowable in view of the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent Claims are allowable at least to the extent of the independent Claims 9 and 14 to which they refer, respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the dependent Claims. Applicants reserve the right to make further arguments regarding the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), if necessary, and do not concede that the Examiner's proposed combinations are proper.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-20 are allowed.

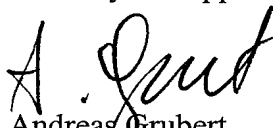
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicant believes there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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